

RE: FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* ([*NPRM&O*](#)) in WT
Docket 05-235

It is my opinion that the FCC should NOT eliminate the Morse code requirement for the General and Amateur Extra class licenses.

I am an FCC licensed radio amateur, holding the Amateur Extra class license. I have been a licensed radio amateur for 46 years and have observed changes in the radio amateur service both good and bad. I have participated in MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System), Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and am currently a Volunteer Examiner (VE).

It has been my observation that the reduction in minimum qualifications for examination has degraded the radio amateur service because many new licensees seem to lack the technical and procedural understanding and commitment to continue this service as it has been in former decades.

It is my opinion that the FCC should NOT eliminate the Morse code requirement for the General and Amateur Extra class licenses. The Morse code requirements have already been reduced to five words-per-minute (WPM) from 13WPM for the General and from 20WPM for the Amateur Extra. This change made the qualification process to upgrade from Technician extremely easy, to the point where further reductions will only degrade the radio amateur service.

Some have said that this measure will increase the number of young people becoming licensed radio amateurs. I totally disagree. The reason that many young people today do not acquire their amateur radio licenses is because new technology is available that was not present in past years. Today, we have personal computers, Internet and cellular telephones which have become the technology of choice for many. When I was originally licensed, these options didn't exist and amateur radio was a more likely choice for technology minded young people.

Morse code has been a mainstay in amateur radio from its beginnings. It provides a digital mode of communications superior to voice modes during severe atmospheric conditions rendering radio voice communications difficult, if not impossible. A few other nations have eliminated the code requirement; but I believe that most nations still require Morse code for amateur radio licensees.

Respectfully,

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